

3.7 Land Use

The study area is defined as the proposed ROW width plus the area between the existing ROW and the new ROW where the lines are not adjacent. The study area includes both private and public lands and avoids all incorporated areas. (See Map 7, *Land Ownership*.)

3.7.1 Location of Study Area

Line segments cross private lands and publicly administered lands in four Washington counties: Kittitas, Grant, Benton, and Yakima. See Table 3.7-1, *Counties Crossed by Segment*. Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, lists the distance of private and publicly administered lands crossed. Map 7, *Land Ownership*, shows land ownership within the project area. Map 8, *Hanford Site*, shows a detail of public lands on the Hanford Site. Appendix H, *Consistency with State and Local Government Regulations*, discusses the local government regulations for these counties.

Table 3.7-1
Counties Crossed by Segment

Line Segment	County			
	Kittitas	Grant	Benton	Yakima
A	✓			
B	✓	✓		
C	✓		✓	✓
D		✓	✓	
E		✓	✓	
F		✓	✓	

Table 3.7-2
Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area

Administering Agency	Distance and Percentage of Each Segment							Total Distance
	A	B _{NORTH}	B _{SOUTH}	C	D	E	F	
Private	18.15 mi 65.9%	1.06 mi 11.6%	1.06 11.2%	5.15 mi 17.1%	15.74 mi 58.9%	8.97 mi 35.5%	0.57 mi 1.7%	50.7 mi 31.5%
DNR	2.73 mi 9%		0.03 mi 0.3%	0.39 mi 1.3%	2.0 mi 7.5%	0.57 mi 2.3%	2.54 mi 7.8%	8.26 mi 5.1%
WDFW	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0.8 mi 2.4%	0.8 mi 0.5%
BLM	0.88 mi 3.2%	0.64 mi 7.0%	0.64 mi 6.8%	0.22 mi 0.7%	2.86 mi 10.7%	4.88 mi 19.3%	12.84 mi 39.2%	22.96 mi 14.3%
DOD	5.78 mi 21.0%	7.03 mi 77.0%	7.34 mi 77.5%	24.3 mi 80.8%				44.45 mi 27.6%
BOR		0.4 mi 4.4%	0.4 mi 4.2%		1.82 mi 6.8%	3.98 mi 15.8%	4.35 mi 13.3%	10.95 mi 6.8%
USFWS					0.53 mi 1.9%	0.96 mi 3.8%		1.49 mi 0.9%
USDOE					3.79 mi 14.2%	5.9 mi 23.4%	11.66 mi 35.6%	21.35 mi 13.3%
Total Public	9.39 mi 34.1%	8.07 mi 88.4%	8.41 mi 88.8%	24.91 mi 82.9%	11.0 mi 41.1%	16.29 mi 64.5%	32.19 mi 98.3%	110.26 mi 68.5%
Total Distance	27.54 mi	9.13 mi	9.47 mi	30.06 mi	26.74 mi	25.26 mi	32.76 mi	160.96 mi

This table has been updated for the FEIS.

3.7.1.1 Kittitas County

Kittitas County lies within the upper Yakima River watershed and on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. Mountains and steep hills ring an extensive irrigated area known as the Kittitas Valley where most of the County's residents live. Major irrigation projects of the 1940's and 50's distributed water to the valley floor, turning arid lands into productive farmland.

Segment A is entirely within Kittitas County. The majority of Segment B and a portion of Segment C are also within the County. Segments A and B cross both private lands and publicly administered lands. Segment C in Kittitas County would be located completely on publicly administered lands.

3.7.1.2 Grant County

The Columbia River flows in a deep valley along the west and southwestern boundary of Grant County. The County is a state and national leader in the production of wheat, corn, hay, potatoes, and several tree fruits and is a major livestock production center.

Agricultural areas are concentrated throughout the County and the location of agriculture has been strongly influenced by the construction of irrigation facilities.

A small portion of Segment B and the majority of Segments D, E, and F are located within the County. These line segments cross both private lands and publicly administered lands.

3.7.1.3 Benton County

Benton County is located in the central part of the Columbia Basin. The principal land use is commercial dryland and irrigated agriculture with its related industries such as storage, shipping, processing, and sales of chemicals and equipment. Irrigated crop production and dryland agriculture is located throughout the agricultural lands designation. It is estimated that 17 percent of Benton County is irrigated land and 50 percent is range and dryland agriculture. Major crops in Benton County are wheat, corn, potatoes, apples, cherries, hops, mint, alfalfa hay, and wine grapes. Beef cattle are also raised in the County.

Of the overall study area, a small portion of Segment D and even smaller portions of Segments C, E, and F traverse through and terminate in Benton County. Segments C and D would cross both private lands and publicly administered lands. Segments E and F would only cross publicly administered lands.

3.7.1.4 Yakima County

Agriculture and related industries are the leading industries in Yakima County. The location of agriculture has been strongly influenced by the construction of irrigation facilities. Cultivated agriculture in Yakima County is heavily concentrated in and around the valley floors, while grazing lands and most orchards are located along many of the hillsides.

Only Segment C would pass through Yakima County, on private lands as well as publicly administered lands.

3.7.2 Land Uses in Study Area

Table 3.7-3, *Land Uses Crossed by Each Line Segment*, identifies the length of various land uses that are crossed by each segment. Public and private land uses are combined for this table.

Table 3.7-3
Land Uses Crossed by Each Line Segment

Land Use	Distance and Percentage of Each Segment							Total Distance
	A	B _{NORTH}	B _{SOUTH}	C	D	E	F	
Commercial, Industrial, and Transportation	0.17 mi 0.6%	0.02 mi 0.2%	0.02 mi 0.2%	0.02 mi 0.1%	0.31 mi 1.2%	0.04 mi 0.2%	0.06 mi 0.2%	0.64 mi 0.4%
Residential	0%	0%	0%	0.01 mi 0.1%	0.02 mi 0.1%	0%	0%	0.03 mi 0.1%
Forest	0.5 mi 1.8%	0%	0%	0.2 mi 0.7%	0.11 mi 0.4%	0.01 mi 0.1%	0.01 mi >0.1%	0.83 mi 0.5%
Range	25.92 mi 94.1%	8.51 mi 93.2%	8.54 mi 90.2%	29.38 mi 97.7%	16.23 mi 60.7%	17.64 mi 69.8%	27.63 mi 84.3%	133.85 mi 83.2%
Agricultural	0.51 mi 1.9%	0%	0%	0%	8.75 mi 32.7%	4.77 mi 18.9%	0.34 mi 1.0%	14.37 mi 8.9%
Water	0%	0.49 mi 5.4%	0.49 mi 5.2%	0.02 mi 0.1%	0.3 mi 1.1%	0.61 mi 2.4%	0.5 mi 1.5%	2.41 mi 1.5%
Unknown	0.44 mi 1.6%	0.11 mi 1.2%	0.42 mi 4.4%	0.43 mi 1.4%	1.02 mi 3.8%	2.19 mi 8.7%	4.22 mi 12.9%	8.83 mi 5.5%
Total Distance	27.54 mi	9.13 mi	9.47 mi	30.06 mi	26.74 mi	25.26 mi	32.76 mi	160.96 mi

This table has been updated for the FEIS.

The majority of land crossed by the various segments is rangeland, approximately 133.85 miles or 83.2 percent of the total lands crossed. The second most frequently crossed lands are used for agricultural purposes, approximately 14.37 miles or almost 9 percent of the total lands crossed.

Map 9, *Land Use Cover*, shows the various land uses along the different line segments.

3.7.2.1 Private Lands

As shown in Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, roughly 32 percent of the study area is located on privately owned land. Private land ownership in the study area is

characterized by open rangeland, agricultural land, open space, some rural residential, and a limited amount of quarrying. Table 3.7-4, *Distance of Private Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, identifies the total distance each land use would be crossed by the various line segments on privately owned lands.

Table 3.7-4
Distance of Private Land Uses Crossed by Project Area

Land Use	Distance of Each Segment							Total Distance
	A	B _{NORTH}	B _{SOUTH}	C	D	E	F	
Commercial, Industrial, and Transportation	0.13 mi	0.02 mi	0.02 mi	0.02 mi	0.24 mi	0	0	0.43 mi
Residential	0	0	0	0	0.01 mi	0	0	0.01 mi
Forest	0.5 mi	0	0	0	0.11 mi	0	0	0.61 mi
Range	16.78 mi	0.54 mi	0.54 mi	5.11 mi	6.83 mi	2.34 mi	0.58 mi	32.72 mi
Agricultural	0.42 mi	0	0	0	7.7 mi	4.28 mi	0	12.4 mi
Water	0	0.46 mi	0.46 mi	0	0.04 mi	0.19 mi	0	1.15 mi
Unknown	0.31 mi	0.04 mi	0.04 mi	0.02 mi	0.81 mi	2.16 mi	0	3.38 mi
Total Distance	18.14 mi	1.06 mi	1.06 mi	5.15 mi	15.74 mi	8.97 mi	0.58 mi	50.7 mi

This table has been updated for the FEIS.

3.7.2.2 Public Agency Administered Lands

In addition to the privately held lands, there are seven public agencies that administer lands crossed in the four counties. The public land areas crossed are under the administration of two Washington State agencies, DNR and WDFW, and five federal agencies: BLM, DOD, BOR, USFWS, and USDOE. Table 3.7-5, *State and Federal Agency Land by County*, identifies the state or federal agencies that administer land crossed per county.

Table 3.7-5
State and Federal Agency Land by County

Agency	County			
	Kittitas	Grant	Benton	Yakima
DNR	✓	✓	✓	✓
WDFW		✓		
BLM	✓	✓	✓	
DOD	✓			✓
BOR	✓	✓		
USFWS		✓		
USDOE		✓	✓	

As shown in Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, roughly 92 percent of the study area crosses rangeland while located on publicly administered land. Typical land uses on the publicly owned lands in the study area include predominantly rangeland, agricultural, wildlife habitat, recreation, and limited

commercial, industrial, or transportation-related uses. Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, identifies the total distance each line segment would cross various land uses on lands administered by a public agency.

Table 3.7-6
Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area

Land Use	Distance of Each Segment							Total Distance
	A	B _{NORTH}	B _{SOUTH}	C	D	E	F	
Commercial, Industrial, and Transportation	0.04 mi	0	0	0	0.07 mi	0.04 mi	0.06 mi	0.21 mi
Residential	0	0	0	0.01 mi	0.01 mi	0	0	0.02 mi
Forest	0	0	0	0.2 mi	0	0.01 mi	0.01 mi	0.22 mi
Range	9.14 mi	7.97 mi	8.0 mi	24.27 mi	9.4 mi	15.3 mi	27.05 mi	101.13 mi
Agricultural	0.09 mi	0	0	0	1.05 mi	0.49 mi	0.34 mi	1.97 mi
Water	0	0.03 mi	0.03 mi	0.02 mi	0.26 mi	0.42 mi	0.5 mi	1.26 mi
Unknown	0.13 mi	0.07 mi	0.38 mi	0.41 mi	0.21 mi	0.03 mi	4.22 mi	5.45 mi
Total Distance	9.4 mi	8.07 mi	8.41 mi	24.91 mi	11.0 mi	16.29 mi	32.18 mi	110.26 mi

This table has been updated for the FEIS.

3.7.2.3 Aircraft Uses

Four airports were identified in proximity to the segments (Table 3.7-7, *Airports in Proximity*). None of the airports are located directly within the study corridors of the segments. However, each airport is close enough to the respective segments that flight patterns could be affected.

Table 3.7-7
Airports in Proximity

Airport	Closest Segment	Approximate Location
Bowers Field Airport	A	T18N, R18E, Sec 23 & 24
Yakima Training Center	A, B, C	Segments cross areas where military flights take place during training exercises
Mattawa Air Strip	E	T14N, R25E, Sec 5
Christensen Brothers Wahluke Strip	D	T14N, R24E, Sec 10 & 15

This table has been updated for the FEIS.

The Bowers Field Airport, two miles north of Ellensburg, is located approximately five miles south of the Vantage substation. This airport utilizes the area for flight instruction, local general aviation, and transient general aviation.

In addition to the use of the airspace around the segments by commercial and private aircraft, the U. S. Army utilizes the airspace over the YTC for military training flights and support of ground maneuvers. During Fiscal Year 2001 (October 2000 – October

2001), the Army indicates there were 1,462 flights across the YTC. They expect this number to increase in the future.

3.7.3 Segment A

Segment A and Options 1 and 2 of the Sickler-Schultz Reroute, approximately 27.5 miles, would be located entirely within Kittitas County and, as shown in Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, would cross privately owned lands (roughly 66 percent of the segment) as well as publicly administered lands (roughly 34 percent).

3.7.3.1 Private Land

Rangeland is the predominate private land use along Line Segment A; approximately 16.8 miles of the 18 miles of private land crossed by the segment. Rangeland is also the land use along both options of the Sickler-Schultz Reroute. Less than one-half mile of each of the following land uses — commercial, industrial and transportation, forest, agricultural, and unknown — would be crossed by this segment.

The rangeland is used for raising and grazing livestock and is predominately **shrub-steppe** over varied terrain consisting of numerous ridges and valleys that traverse the eastern side of Kittitas County.

Farm and agricultural uses are typified as dryland agricultural operations. The predominant crops are hay and wheat.

Vacation homes, and people seeking a rural lifestyle are increasing the residential development in the study area. Table 3.7-4, *Distance of Private Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, does not reflect the presence of residential land uses along this segment because the land on which these residences are located is designated for rangeland or agricultural purposes; however, residential land uses are permitted in the area with minimum lot sizes of 20 acres.

Mineral resource lands of long-term commercial significance are not specifically zoned along the segment but have been identified on a Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan map. The study area crosses an existing quarry operation along the south side of an existing transmission line.

There are some limited forest resources in the study area. However, these areas are not considered harvestable timber resources (Neil White, Kittitas County Planning Director, Pers. Comm., April 2001).

➡ For Your Information

*A **shrub-steppe** habitat is a shrub and grass dominated community found in arid areas.*

3.7.3.2 Public Land

Public land crossed by this segment is under the administration of one state agency, DNR, and two federal agencies, BLM, and DOD. Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, provides the distance Segment A would cross these public lands (9.39 miles), and Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, shows that the primary use of these public lands is rangeland (9.14 miles).

DNR Lands – The majority of DNR lands crossed by the project area are located along the northern half of the line segment, including the northern portion of the Sickler-Schultz Reroute, Options 1 and 2. This land is considered transition land by DNR and is designated as agricultural land. However, the land is managed for its highest and best use and for this particular area that use is rangeland.

BLM Lands – The BLM land along Segment A is used as rangeland and would support land use activities consistent with this type of land at other locations along the other segments.

DOD Lands (YTC) – The largest area of federal land crossed by the study area is the YTC (5.8 miles). A U.S. military reservation, this segment is administered by the U.S. DOD and is a sub-installation of Fort Lewis. The total size of the YTC is 511.64 square miles; split roughly in half between Kittitas and Yakima Counties.

The YTC is divided into 10 different watershed complexes and 5 different land use zones. Military training exercises vary according to the land use zones within the specific complexes and certain maneuvers in one complex may not be present in the same land use zone in a different complex.

Segment A would cross the northern border of the YTC and continue south through the Middle Canyon Complex ending just inside the Johnson Creek Complex; completely within Kittitas County. The segment crosses three land use zones; Land Bank Zone, General Use Zone (slopes 0 to 15 percent), and General Use Zone (slopes > 15 percent). Typical training maneuvers in the study area consist of armor and mechanized infantry movements, firing exercises, tanks and other vehicle movements, and military training exercises.

For Your Information

Native American traditional cultural practices can include gathering plants and roots for medicinal use and religious ceremonies.

Non-military land uses within the YTC include **Native American traditional cultural practices** by the Yakama Indian Nation and the Wanapum Band as well as limited recreational hunting and other outdoor activities.

3.7.4 Segment B

Options B_{NORTH} and B_{SOUTH} are different in length, but cross the same types of lands and are discussed together.

3.7.4.1 Private Lands

Approximately 1.06 miles of Options B_{NORTH} and B_{SOUTH} would be located on private lands. Of this amount, roughly one-half of this land is used as rangeland, with the Columbia River crossing, or open water, comprising all but 0.06 mile of the remaining portion.

The rangeland supports livestock activities and is predominantly steppe and shrub-steppe over varied terrain, consistent with the rangeland activities and terrain along all other segments.

3.7.4.2 Public Lands

Public land crossed by this segment is under the administration of one state agency, DNR, and three federal agencies, BLM, DOD, and BOR. Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, provides the distance Options B_{NORTH} and B_{SOUTH} would cross these public lands (8.07/8.41 miles). Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, shows that rangeland is the predominant land use.

DNR Lands – A very small portion of Option B_{SOUTH} would cross DNR administered lands. The use of these lands is for the John Wayne Trail. Further discussion of this trail can be found in Section 3.10, *Recreational Resources*, of this document.

BLM Lands – Less than one mile of BLM lands would be crossed by B_{NORTH} and B_{SOUTH}. This land is rangeland, but is also used by the YTC for its training operations.

DOD Lands (YTC) – The majority of Options B_{NORTH} and B_{SOUTH} (roughly 77 and 78 percent of each option respectively) would be located within the YTC. Both options would traverse the Johnson Creek Complex and two land use zones, General Use Zone (slopes 0 to 15 percent) and General Use Zone (slopes > 15 percent), before exiting the YTC along its eastern border.

Tanks and other vehicle movements, as well as training exercises take place within the Johnson Creek Complex.

BOR Lands – Options B_{NORTH} and B_{SOUTH} also cross BOR lands. These lands are administered and managed to maintain and develop water distribution systems, such as irrigation canals, that move water to the fertile agricultural lands of the area.

3.7.5 Segment C

3.7.5.1 Private Lands

Segment C would cross privately owned lands in a scarcely populated area between the YTC in Yakima County and the new substation site in Benton County (Wautoma Substation). There is no private land crossed by Segment C in Kittitas County.

→ For Your Information

For this document, agriculture is defined as row crops, pasture, fallow fields, orchards, crops and grains. Land that we refer to as rangeland is grassland and shrubland that may be used for grazing or the movement of livestock.

The area is within the Blackrock Valley and its terrain is gently rolling hills at the foot of the Saddle Mountain Range. While some parts of this area are used for dryland agriculture, the main use of the area that would be crossed by Segment C is rangelands.

In Benton County, Segment C would cross land that is sparsely inhabited rural-agricultural land. The landscape is characterized by rolling hills cut by drainages from the Saddle Mountain Range. As in Yakima County, the area is more commonly used for rangeland instead of agricultural purposes.

3.7.5.2 Public Lands

Public land crossed by this segment is under the administration of one state agency, DNR, and two federal agencies, BLM₁ and DOD. Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, shows that Segment C would cross 24.91 miles of public lands. Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, shows that the predominant land use is rangeland.

→ Reminder

See Map 7, Land Ownership, for location of the John Wayne Trail.

DNR Lands – A small portion of Segment C would cross DNR administered lands. This land is at the northern end of the segment where the John Wayne Trail is crossed, and near the southern end of the segment. The DNR land at the southern end is used as rangeland.

DOD Lands (YTC) – The majority of Segment C (roughly 81 percent) would be located in the YTC. The segment would traverse three land use zones, Land Bank Zone, General Use Zone (slopes 0 to 15 percent) and General Use Zone (slopes >15 percent) and five watershed complexes, Johnson Creek, Hanson, Alkali Canyon, Corral Canyon, and Cold Creek.

The land use activities in Johnson Creek would be the same as those describe for Segment B.

The military conducts ground maneuvers, live fire artillery, mortar training, and water exercises within the Hanson Complex.

Live fire training for the infantry, tanks, and helicopters as well as light infantry maneuvers and small unit operations are conducted within the Alkali Canyon and Corral Canyon Complexes. Due to the steep

slopes in these two complexes, parachute drops are used to deliver supplies to the infantry.

Cold Creek Complex supports track vehicle and light infantry maneuvers.

Throughout these complexes low flying aircraft such as helicopters, F-18s and A-10s are used to support the ground maneuvers.

3.7.6 Line Segment D

3.7.6.1 Private Lands

Segment D would cross 7.7 miles of private agricultural lands. This is the largest amount of agricultural lands crossed by any of the line segments. The segment would also cross 6.83 miles of rangeland. The segment would cross less than one-half mile of each of the following land uses: commercial, industrial and transportation, residential, forest, water, and unknown.

About 29 percent of the land along the segment is privately owned land used for agricultural purposes. The agricultural areas are composed mainly of irrigated lands with highly productive soil that is generally suited to crops, such as grains and vegetables, agricultural-related industries, and livestock maintenance. Vineyards and orchards are also present along the segment.

Dryland agricultural practices also occur along the study area for Segment D. Dryland agricultural land is primarily for grain or feed crop production.

As Table 3.7-3, *Land Uses Crossed by Each Line Segment*, indicates, Segment D would cross 8.8 miles of agricultural land.

Private rangeland accounts for approximately 26 percent of the lands crossed by this line segment. This land is used for livestock and is predominantly steppe and shrub-steppe over varied terrain.

The remaining portions of this segment would cross areas of Grant County that have been designated as rural in nature. Such areas are those not suitable for intensive farming and generally do not attract large residential development. Some areas near the western end of Crab Creek have been designated as open space, which further limits the ability to develop the land.

Limited rural-residential structures are also located along the segment. Maximum residential density in the rural areas of Grant County is one dwelling unit per 20 acres.

Reminder

See Map 9, Land Use Cover.

3.7.6.2 Public Lands

Public lands crossed by this segment are under the administration of one state agency, DNR, and four federal agencies, BLM, BOR, USFWS, and USDOE. Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, provides the distance Segment D would cross these public lands (11.0 miles) and Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, shows that the predominant land use is rangeland (9.4 miles) and 1.6 miles of the public lands are agricultural, commercial, industrial and transportation, residential, open water, and unknown.

DNR Lands – DNR lands would be crossed by Segment D in Grant County and Benton County. In Grant County this land is managed for agricultural purposes and in Benton County it is used as rangeland.

BLM Lands (Saddle Mountain Management Area) – Roughly 3.0 miles of BLM land would be crossed by this segment. This BLM land is located north of the agricultural areas in Grant County and is the western end of the Saddle Mountain Management Area. This land is managed for multiple purposes, such as mining, rangeland, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

BOR Lands – The BOR lands that would be crossed by this segment are located at the north end of the segment and along the south face of the Saddle Mountains. These lands are administered and managed to maintain and develop the water distribution system, such as irrigation canals, that move water to the fertile agricultural lands of the area.

USFWS Lands (Columbia National Wildlife Refuge) – Segment D would cross the westernmost part of the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge near Crab Creek. This area is an isolated three quarters of a Section between Crab Creek and the base of the Saddle Mountains. This land is managed for wildlife habitat.

USDOE Lands (Hanford Site and Hanford Reach National Monument) – Map 7, *Land Ownership*, illustrates the boundaries of the Hanford Site and its management units. The Hanford Reach National Monument is shown on Map 8, *Hanford Site*. The land crossed on the Hanford Site is made up of large tracts of land originally used by the USDOE as a protective buffer zone for safety and security purposes. The area remains largely undisturbed, preserving a biological and cultural resource setting unique in the Columbia Basin region.

The Hanford Reach National Monument forms a C-shaped region bisected by the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River. The lands

within the monument are divided into five major management units: Fitzner-Eberhardt Arid Lands Ecology Reserve, Saddle Mountain Unit, and Wahluke Unit administered by the USFWS; and the McCee-Riverlands Unit and the Columbia River Islands/Dunes Unit administered by the USDOE.

Segment D crosses the far western part of the Saddle Mountain Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument and has a land use designation of Preservation.

The study area also crosses the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, which was found suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system under “Recreational River” classification in the National Park Service’s Hanford Reach of the Columbia River Comprehensive Conservation Study/EIS in June 1994. The Hanford Reach is currently under the interim protection as directed by Public Law 100-605, as amended by Section 404 (Hanford Reach Preservation) of Public Law 104-333. The USFWS is responsible for overseeing interim management protection.

3.7.7 Segment E

3.7.7.1 Private Lands

Agricultural lands and rangeland make up about 74 percent of the private land uses crossed by Segment E, 4.28 miles and 2.34 miles, respectively. The remaining 26 percent would cross open water and unknown.

The agricultural lands and rangelands are used for the same purposes as described above for Segment D.

As Table 3.7-3, *Land Uses Crossed by Each Line Segment*, indicates, in total Segment E would cross 4.77 miles of agricultural lands.

3.7.7.2 Public Lands

Public lands crossed by this segment are under the administration of one state agency, DNR, and four federal agencies, BLM, BOR, USFWS, and USDOE. Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, provides the distance Segment E would cross these public lands (16.29 miles) and Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, shows that the predominant land use is rangeland (15.3 miles) and approximately 1 mile of the public lands are agricultural, commercial, industrial and transportation, forest, open water, and unknown.

DNR Lands – Segment E would cross roughly 0.57 mile of DNR lands that are located north of the Wahluke Slope in Grant County. This land is managed for agricultural purposes.

BLM Lands (Saddle Mountain Management Area) – BLM lands that would be crossed by Segment E are the western portion of the Saddle Mountain Management Area. It is managed by BLM for multiple purposes, such as mining, rangeland, recreation, and wildlife habitat.

BOR Lands – The BOR lands crossed by this segment support the same land uses as those described above for Segment D.

USFWS Lands (Columbia National Wildlife Refuge) – Segment E would cross the westernmost part of the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge near Crab Creek. This area is an isolated three quarters of a Section between Crab Creek and the base of the Saddle Mountains. This land is managed for wildlife habitat.

USDOE Lands (Saddle Mountain Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument and Hanford Site) – A general description of the USDOE lands has been provided above for Segment D.

Segment E, however, would cross through the Saddle Mountain Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument before crossing the Columbia River and terminating on the Hanford Site.

The Saddle Mountain Unit is managed by the USFWS under an agreement with the USDOE. The area is wildlife habitat that has remained largely undisturbed since the 1940's. It has a land use designation of Preservation and is managed for the preservation of archaeological, cultural, ecological, and natural resources.

This segment ends at the Hanford Substation, which is approximately 1/4 mile from the Columbia River. The area within 1/4 mile of the Columbia River has a land use designation of Preservation; beyond 1/4 mile, the land use designation is Industrial. The area to the northeast of the termination site of this segment is currently used by the USDOE as an operating and facilities area. The remaining surrounding area is open rangeland.

3.7.8 Segment F

Segment F, approximately 32.8 miles, would be located within Grant and Benton Counties and, as shown in Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, would cross privately owned lands (roughly 2.0 percent of the segment) as well as publicly administered lands (roughly 98 percent).

3.7.8.1 Private Lands

All the private land crossed by this segment is open rangeland or rangeland used for raising and grazing of livestock (0.58 miles). No privately owned agricultural areas would be crossed.

3.7.8.2 Public Lands

Public lands crossed by this segment are under the administration of two state agencies, DNR and WDFW, and three federal agencies, BLM, BOR, and USDOE. Table 3.7-2, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands in Project Area*, provides the distance Segment F would cross these public lands (32.19 miles) and Table 3.7-6, *Distance of Public Land Uses Crossed by Project Area*, shows that the predominant land use is rangeland (27.05 miles) and approximately 5.5 miles of the public lands are agricultural, commercial, industrial and transportation, forest, open water, and unknown.

DNR Lands – Segment F would cross DNR lands that are located intermittently along the segment on the north and south side of the Saddle Mountains. These lands are managed for agricultural and rangeland purposes.

WDFW Lands – Roughly 0.8 mile of WDFW administered lands would be crossed by this segment. These lands are managed for rangeland purposes and are typical of the shrub-steppe lands of the area.

BLM Lands (Saddle Mountain Management Area) – The largest amount of public lands that would be crossed by this segment, nearly 40 percent of the total segment, would be the Saddle Mountain Management Area administered by the BLM. Unlike Segments D and E that would cross only the western end of the management area, Segment F would cross east and west through the majority of the area. As a result, nearly all the multiple land uses of the area, such as rangeland, recreation, and wildlife habitat, would be crossed by the segment.

BOR Lands – The BOR lands crossed by this segment support the same land uses as those described above for Segment D.

USDOE Lands (Saddle Mountain Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument and Hanford Site) – A general description of the USDOE lands has been provided above for Segment D.

The majority of this segment would cross the Saddle Mountain Unit in a different location than Segment E. The land uses along Segment F are different than those for Segment E because Segment F crosses the Wahluke Unit of the Hanford Reach National Monument, which receives year-round recreational use.

Also, since Segment F would cross the Columbia River and terminate at the same location as Segment E, the land uses present on the Hanford Site (south of the Columbia River) would be the same as for Segment E.

3.7.9 Fiber Optic Line

Between the Vantage and Columbia Substations, the fiber would cross private lands (roughly 90%) and public lands (roughly 10%) and would be located in two Washington counties, Grant and Douglas. Table 3.7-8, *Private and Publicly Owned Lands Crossed by the Vantage to the Columbia Fiber Optic Line*, lists the distance of private and public land crossed by the fiber, and identifies the public agencies.

Table 3.7-8
Private and Publicly Owned Lands Crossed by the
Vantage to Columbia Fiber Optic Line

Administering Agency	Distance Crossed (mi.)	Percent of Fiber Optic Line
Private	28.22	89.6
DNR	0.09	0.3
WDFW	1.09	3.5
BOR	2.11	6.7
Total Public	3.29	10.4
Total	31.51	100%

New table for the FEIS.

A variety of land uses are found on the private and public lands. These land uses are identified in Table 3.7-9, *Land Uses Crossed by the Vantage to Columbia Fiber Optic Line*.

Table 3.7-9
Land Uses Crossed by the Vantage to Columbia Fiber Optic Line

Land Use	Private Lands (mi.)	Public Lands (mi.)	Total
Commercial, Industrial, and Transportation	0.33	0.02	0.35 mi. 1.1%
Residential	0.13	0.00	0.13 mi. 0.4%
Forest	0.02	0.04	0.06 mi. 0.2%
Range	17.94	2.47	20.41 mi. 64.8%
Agricultural	9.78	0.14	9.92 mi. 31.5%
Water	0.02	0.62	0.64 mi. 2.0%
Unknown	0	0	0
Total	28.22 mi.	3.29 mi.	31.51 mi.

New table for the FEIS.

Nearly two-thirds of the land crossed by the Vantage to Columbia fiber optic line is rangeland, approximately 20.4 miles or 65% of the

total lands crossed. Agricultural lands are crossed by approximately 9.9 miles or 32% of the total lands crossed. Rangeland and agricultural lands in this area are similar in use to those described for the transmission line segments. Combined, the other land uses along the fiber optic line are located along less than two miles and make up only 3% of the overall land uses crossed.